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VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

VAANYA RAI

Dear Readers,

Welcome to this new edition of The Ortus! We, the students of Grade 9 IGCSE'25 are delighted to takeover the newsletter from our seniors. In the spirit of collaboration, we have tried to give voice to diverse expressions and we hope that this labour of love will be accepted by you.

The theme chosen for this issue is 'Experiences'. It won't be wrong to say that humans are, after all, a sum of all their experiences, whether they be personal, public or even meta experiences. We are driven and shaped by such experiences. Hence, the need to explore this crucial theme.

You will find that all contributions to this edition carry conviction and explore the theme through the lens of the individual, whether the experience has affected a person, or is shared by a community as a collective entity or goes beyond a person's perception. This is because the writers believe that all experiences are filtered through the eyes of an individual, who becomes the subject of all that happens in the universe. In this context, you will find the writings to be deeply personal yet appealing to wider sensibilities. We hope that you enjoy reading this edition.

Happy Reading!

HOW I AM, WHAT I AM

AANYA SENGUPTA

Being a child, oh, the pure delight, Innocence and wonder, day and night. My happiest days, so carefree, A world of endless possibilities to see.

Being a teenager, a stormy ride, With emotions raging deep inside. I've stumbled and fallen, time and again, But from each fall, I have learned to mend.

Broken and healed, my spirit did mend, In the crucible of life, I did transcend. Yet my destiny, it quietly speaks, Of the strength I found in the darkest weeks.

The journey I've embraced, with open heart, Navigating life's maze, from the very start. Finding tranquility in the midst of the storm, And the ability to grow, transform and reform.

Up on my own mistakes, I've risen high, For through them, I reached the limitless sky. The path I've made, winding and long, Is where I found the melody in life's song.

Mistakes I've made, countless they may be, But they shaped the person that you now see.

Is why I am who I am today, In every step, I found my own way.





THE BENEFITS OF FRIENDSHIP OF OUR WELL-BEING

SAHAAN PULHANI

INTRODUCTION Throughout the chapters of life, if there's one thing that makes our journey more enjoyable and meaningful, it's friendship, and I've always been glad to have good friends, although I don't have many. Quality is what I prefer over quantity. Additionally, I believe throughout my personal, public, and meta experiences, I have discovered the profound role and significance that friendship plays in shaping our personal well-being. That is exactly what this article talks about.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Celebrating life's victories is a personal experience

that one loves to share with ones friends. From birthdays to winning competitions or getting great marks, friends share their triumphs and bask in the happiness of each other's achievements. This signifies the importance of friends during life's highs. Throughout life, if there's something I've realised, it's that everyone needs a safe space and someone with whom they can share things like their flaws, quirks, and other information that they might not feel comfortable sharing with anyone but a friend. Not only does this make one feel more accepted, but it also contributes to their overall well-being. I feel lucky to share a close bond with my best friend, Daksh Arora.

We have been together since the time I remember. We talk on a daily basis, about things that seem important and things that don't matter. He has been a pillar of strength for me, always wishing well for me. That we are in the same school, in the same class is a cherry on the cake, as that has allowed us to go on school trips together, share the highs and lows of life and just be there for each other. I derive a lot of strength from this friendship and I am sure in this big wide world, I can always count of Daksh and that is a nice thought to have.

PUBLIC EXPERIENCES

Public experiences highlight the general significance of friendship. It is observed that friendships enhance our interactive as well as communication skills with others. When I interact with my friends, I learn so many new things from them and it also helps me boost my confidence. It is also seen how welcoming a new friend into one's group brings them a sense of belonging and makes them feel a part of something as well as feel noticed. I still recall my first day in school. I was sitting in a class filled with unknown people and going through a feeling of loneliness.



However, a few of my friendly classmates started to indulge me in conversations with them and eventually I became a part of their friend group which made me feel welcomed. Similarly, friendship also affects and influences professional lives; most people feel content working with someone who is their friend,

META EXPERIENCES **Meta-experiences emphasize** the importance of quality over quantity in friendships. It is believed that a few genuine friendships can have a more significant impact on our well-being than a vast network of acquaintances. I see people having so many friends and people they spend time with, however, I prefer having fewer friends, who are really close to me and with whom I can share things. I've come to understand via metaexperiences that cultivating and preserving friendships take work and intention. I've invested and put time and effort into my friendships because I know how valuable and worthwhile they are, which also results in friendships fostering a positive environment in the workplace. This collaboration with friends makes working way more enjoyable as well as more productive.

CONCLUSION Finally, I've realised that

friendship is like the heartbeat of life. Personal, public and meta experiences all demonstrate the value and strength of friendship in various situation. Friendship is that one thing that adds colour to our otherwise black and white life by providing us with a variety of lasting memories that serve as a constant reminder of the good times we've had along the way throughout life.

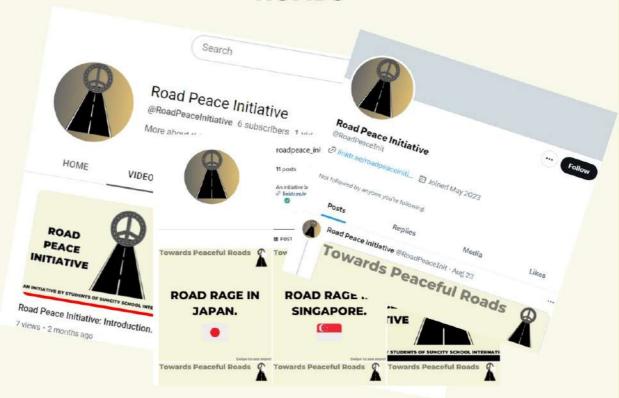






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PARADISE LOST! PARADISE REGAINED!

TAARINI KAPUR

With 8 billion people in the world and a multitude of experiences, each person has a unique one that either holds a special place in their hearts or engulfs them in a pit of sadness. It might be an experience that sends a rush of adrenaline through their bodies and brings a smile to their faces, or it may be something that turns them red with embarrassment. It might even be a memory that reminds them of the pain they went through, but one thing I can assure you of is everyone has a story to tell. Our experiences are an integral part of our lives, they make us who we are and transform us into the best versions of ourselves. They are the best teachers in the school of life and help us appreciate our mistakes, so that we can learn from them and grow.

I believe that tough experiences are one of the most impactful ones in life, they give us a true picture of the people around us and force us to come out of our bubble. I too went through an experience that shattered my heart into a thousand pieces and made me question myself. I had always been a timid, quiet, and easily intimidated child, I probably still am; and shifting schools in sixth grade was at the time the most daunting experience I had ever been through. I found the transition to be extremely tough and I found it especially hard to make any friends, at school or in my residential complex.

Then one ordinary Friday afternoon when my dad picked me up from the bus stop, he met a lady whose child was about the same age as me and connected the two of us.

I had absolutely no intention of meeting her and would have probably made some excuse, but then I decided to go, it wasn't like my social calendar was bursting. So, I entered the lift feeling uncertain and wondering whether I'd made the right decision. When I rang the bell, a girl about five feet tall opened the door, she looked me in the eye and smiled. The minute I met her, I felt at ease, she made me feel welcome and we just clicked. The more time I spent with her, the more I realised that we are poles apart in so many ways and yet so similar to each other, each in need of a friend to confide in. It was inexplicable how quickly we shifted from being just acquaintances to being as thick as thieves. We did everything and I mean everything together, we used to have so much fun. We were just one sleepover short of being sisters and our lives suddenly felt so much easier. We helped each other realise that we were loved because we were us:

quirky and crazy and we didn't need to change that to fit in. However, as time passes people change, their habits change, their needs change and inevitably their friends change too. We leave old people behind to make space for new ones in our lives, and unfortunately our friendships have also started to take the same trajectory.

One day, when I went up to her house, she told me about some new friends she'd made and we were both so excited because being an introvert made talking to new people hard for us and now, she felt confident enough to make friends with new people. Over a period of time, she started spending more and more time with her new friends and I felt like she was shutting me out of her life. Soon our paths hardly ever crossed. She was just a few floors away and yet the distance between us seemed endless. She no longer had time for me and when we met. that too once in a blue moon, we never talked about us or what we were going to do that

day; it was always about the other friends. I wasn't even in the picture.

I assume that sometimes hints aren't enough for a person to understand what a friend really needs because no matter how much I tried to explain to her, she never really understood me. I had never felt so lonely in my life. I felt hurt, angry and betrayed but most of all, I felt fear that I would lose someone so special to me. By the end of eighth grade, I was still hurt about what had happened because I felt like she had abandoned me, but I realised that we needed to redefine our friendship and I needed to come out of my cocoon.

Being unceremoniously pushed to second fiddle forced me to look for new friends, made me introspect to work on my self-confidence and eventually made me look on the brighter side. I started talking to people and made a conscious effort to not withdraw into my shell again, and soon I had a group of friends who related and connected effortlessly with me. I was smiling again. Fast forward a year down the line, at school, she suddenly exclaimed that she was so glad to see me having changed for the better, I smiled at her and thought to myself "I've got you to thank for that."

ABYSSAL DESCENT

ANGAD BRAR

Imagine you, an intrepid explorer, have unwittingly ventured too close to a black hole. Meanwhile, I, an observer of far greater sensibility, have provided you with a remarkable spacecraft. You're now desperately trying to maintain an orbit, having crossed the innermost stable circular orbit. Your spacecraft's engines tirelessly combat the black hole's gravitational pull, but other hapless entities join your descent. You've become part of an accretion disc, a turbulent waltz of doom.

As you spiral further inwards, friction-induced electromagnetic radiation intensifies. You transmit your plea for help, but I, gazing from the safety of a distant space station, decipher your cries as they undergo gravitational redshift, rendering them increasingly

out of tune with reality.

Gravity's relentless grasp and the growing tidal forces stretch you beyond limits, threatening to turn you into cosmic spaghetti, a grotesque distortion of your essence. But that is not all. Other infalling matter accelerates to relativistic speeds, emitting deadly radiation. You're trapped within a maelstrom of high-energy x-rays and gamma rays, tortured by the unforgiving pull of the black hole.



rays, tortured by the unforgiving pull of the black hole.

As you beckon for rescue, I witness time dilation playing its cruel hand. Your time slows to a crawl, a despairing march towards temporal oblivion, while my world remains untouched.

Unreachable, your journey spirals towards the event horizon. I have abandoned hope of contacting you. You've crossed the point of no return. Time, space, and existence cease to have meaning.

UNVEILING THE EMOTIONAL SPECTRUM THROUGH MUSIC

YUVRAJ ARORA

In the realm of contemporary music, the works of Taylor Swift and Eminem stand as powerful conduits of raw human emotion. These artists, renowned for their ability to craft evocative narratives through their songs, traverse an extensive emotional spectrum, drawing audiences into vivid experiences that range from vulnerability to empowerment. Their diverse genres and dynamic songwriting, combined with a transcendent connection to their listeners, make Swift and Eminem integral figures in the everevolving landscape of music, where the emotions they convey know no boundaries. This article invites you to journey alongside these musicians, unraveling the artistry that makes their music an emotional kaleidoscope, capable of touching the depths of the human soul.

STORYTELLING BY EMINEM IN HIS MUSIC

Eminem's music is known for its powerful emotional impact, showcasing his artistry through various elements like raw vocals, classic boom-bap vibes, lighthearted instrumentals, instrumental reflections, and R&B-influenced melodies. Fans deeply resonate with his emotional tracks,



finding relatability in his storytelling and impactful lyrics, which offer touching sentiments about his daughter, a conversational style with emotional depth, impressive rhyme schemes, glimpses into his mental health, and encouragement towards healing.

Eminem's extensive musical catalogue encompasses emotionally charged songs that deeply resonate with his audience. Notable tracks like "When I'm Gone" delve into themes of family and personal struggles, while "Rock Bottom" vividly portrays the challenges of his early career. In "Stan" (Feat. Dido), Eminem's storytelling prowess navigates the unsettling obsession of a fan, and "Like Toy Soldiers" reflects the toll of conflicts within the hip-hop community. "Arose" powerfully addresses his near-fatal overdose, while "Beautiful" infuses R&Binfluenced vibes with electric guitar melodies. These songs underscore Eminem's artistic versatility, including raw vocals, classic boombap vibes, and introspective elements. Moreover, they offer relatability by providing glimpses into so is evident in songs like "Love his personal struggles and emotions, forging a lasting connection with his audience. Eminem's storytelling and impactful lyrics shine through in songs like "Mockingbird"

"Say Goodbye Hollywood," and "Never Over," underscoring his remarkable ability to evoke powerful emotions and leave a lasting impression.

STORYTELLING BY TAYLOR SWIFT IN HER MUSIC

Taylor Swift is known for her ability to express her emotions openly and effectively through her music. She has a talent for conveying her feelings, whether it's anger, longing, or happiness, and making her audience resonate with these emotions. Through her songs, she has a knack for evoking a strong emotional connection with her listeners, allowing them to feel and understand the intensity of her experiences. Swift's storyt<mark>elling prowess</mark> enables her to articulate her emotions with such conviction that her audience can easily relate to them, creating a lasting impact that transcends time and makes her songs memorable to many.

Taylor Swift has a reputation for skillfully channeling her emotions into her music, and her ability to do Story," "You Belong with Me," "Blank Space," and "Shake It Off." Through these tracks, she effectively communicates feelings of love, longing, and selfempowerment,

establishing a strong emotional connection with her audience and leaving a lasting impression that spans across different generations.

Swift's storytelling prowess allows her to express her emotions with such authenticity that her listeners can easily relate to them, making her songs a significant part of their own experiences.

CONCLUSION

In the realm of contemporary music, Taylor Swift and Eminem stand as powerful conduits of raw human emotion, crafting experiences that resonate deeply with their audiences. Renowned for their ability to create evocative narratives, they traverse an extensive emotional spectrum, drawing listeners into vivid experiences that span from vulnerability to empowerment.

Eminem's storytelling prowess, vividly displayed in emotionally charged tracks navigates the intricacies of life's struggles, providing a profound emotional experience for his audience. Taylor Swift, on the other hand, masterfully expresses a wide range of emotions in songs forging lasting emotional connections with her listeners and delivering memorable experiences.

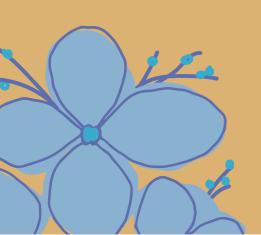
As you immerse yourself in the captivating world of music, you can't help but wonder: How does the emotional journey offered by these artists shape one's own experiences, and what role does music play in our lives as we navigate the ever-changing landscape of emotions?





IMPRESSIONS KAIRA MANCHANDA







SELF-ABUSE

NIHARIKA GULERIA

Trepidation feels like my only sensation,
nervous breaths that lead my way,
addictions not taken seriously, temporarily aggravating my pain,
the hide and seek I play with the face underneath my mask,
I know these shall haunt me forever,
like the eternal existence of spirits in haunted mansions,
they shall follow me like the obsessive clutch of a
toddler onto its mother,
one that exists despite all actions taken against it,
and despite all these hurdles, blocking the narrow lanes of my way,

Here I am, still spending, 'a few more moments', 'a few more hours', 'a few more days', 'weeks', 'months', 'years', And thus 'decades',

Wasting the gift of life, one that I am quite aware of,
Only to be negatively marked for things I couldn't do,
Only to have never done them wrong,
Only to never scar my life with a mistake,
Suffering's adding to my suffering,
no attention being paid to the pain that, 'doesn't exist',
one that I keep a 'mum' on for it is a secret so dangerous,
its existence shall explode the world in a whisk.
Even those with a weapon in their hands,
now hold shields when examining my 'risks'.

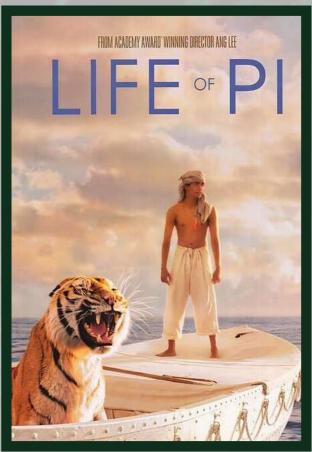
'Life's unfair', they say, and now, so do I,
To ease the blood that oozes out,
but, I know it's only one truth of many.
The others?
The others I'll know of soon,
when my body too, lies somewhere,
dead, robbed,
maybe not of wealth- but of all riches.
Then I shall lie soulless, just as I am now.



"LIFE OF PI" KEYUR KUMAR

Directed by the renowned Ang Lee and based on Yann Martel's famous novel, Life of Pi pushes the boundaries of traditional storytelling, delivering captivating visuals, philosophical depth, and more, a film that is a fascinating combination of existential reflections. Released in 2012, the film is a benchmark for cinematic excellence, inviting viewers to explore the complexity of faith, the power of story, and the resilience of the human spirit.

From the first visuals, "Life of Pi" captivates audiences with a powerful story. The film begins with the vibrant and colourful surroundings of Pi Patel's childhood in India, a stark contrast to the devastation that lies ahead.



Cinematographer Claudio
Miranda brilliantly captures
the majesty of the Pacific
Ocean, its sparkling
underwater world, and its
surreal bioluminescent
creatures. The clever use of
3D technology draws viewers
into Pi's harrowing journey,
turning the viewing
experience into a visceral
adventure.

Suraj Sharma gave a great performance in his debut film as Pi Patel. His character evolves from a curious, wide-eyed Indian boy to a survivor facing the challenges of the open sea. Sharma's ability to convey a wide range of emotions while sharing the screen with CGI is a testament to his talent and adds depth to the character of Pi.



The real brilliance of this film lies in its visual effects. Richard Parker's CGI depictions of animals, especially Bengal tigers, are so lifelike that the line between reality and digital art blurs. The interaction between Pi and Richard Parker is a fascinating dance of fear, respect, and coexistence, emblematic of the film's central theme of survival against all odds.

``Life of Pi" is more than just an adventure story. It delves into deep philosophical insights. Pi's journey becomes a spiritual exploration of faiths that touch on Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity. This web of religious experiences invites viewers to consider the nature of faith, its universality, and the power of story as a means of navigating life's complexities. Ang Lee's direction skillfully weaves these themes into the story, forcing the audience to question their own beliefs and perceptions. As Pi explores the coexistence of these faiths, the film asks deep questions about the nature of truth and the role of faith in our lives.



"Life of Pi" is a thrilling adventure story that challenges viewers to consider the complexities of life, faith, and the enduring human spirit. Its striking visuals and philosophical themes make it a timeless masterpiece that continues to entertain and inspire audiences around the world. For students and movie buffs alike, this film offers a thought-provoking and visually stunning cinematic experience.



Our thoughts on Experiences

Life is full of different twists and turns, highs and lows. Learning from your mistakes, growing and improving. That's what experiences are, how one faces there own ups and downs life throws at them.

-Aanya Sen Gupta IGCSE'25

Experiences are the building blocks of our character, shaping us into the people we are today.

-Keyur Kumar
IGCSE'25

I believe Experiences are the lenses
through which we see the world.
They make us who we are,
teach us things, and help us connect with the world.
-Daksh Arora
IGCSE'24

Experiences serve as the building blocks of our identity, with each moment imprinting a unique chapter onto the story of our lives. They function as the guiding stars in our life's journey, illuminating the path with lessons, happiness, and personal growth.

-Yuvraj Arora IGCSE'24 Experiences are a necessity. We need experiences to grow, we learn from the worst and best experiences and eventually these experiences become a part of our identity.

-Lini Dhingra IBDP'24

Experiences are the things we go through in life, from different events, emotions, interactions to challenges and lessons. They help us in learning and growing as a person and we learn valuable lessons from them. Whether they are joyful or challenging, they contribute to our personal growth and understanding of the world around us.

-Shoham Khandekar IBDP'24

Experiences, in my view, are scenarios or situations that have taken place in our life that might help us gain knowledge through direct personal observations. These experiences can be applied in the future in similar situations to steer them more effectively.

-Esh Gupta IBDP'24

Through our experiences, we learn and grow, we discover new things about ourselves and the world around us. We make mistakes and we learn from them.

-Arjun Mann IGCSE'25

BAKLAVA RECIPE

ADYA SHARMA

Baklava is a layered pastry dessert made of filo pastry, filled with chopped nuts, and sweetened with syrup or honey. It is one of the most popular sweet pastries of Turkish cuisine.

- Preheat oven to 350°. Coat a 13x9-in. baking dish with cooking spray. Combine walnuts and cinnamon.
- Unroll phyllo dough. Layer 2 sheets of phyllo in prepared pan; brush with butter. Repeat with 6 more sheets of phyllo, brushing every other 1 with butter. (Keep remaining phyllo covered with a damp towel to prevent it from drying out.)
- Sprinkle 1/2 cup nut mixture in pan; drizzle with 2 tablespoons honey. Add 2 more phyllo sheets, brushing with butter; sprinkle another 1/2 cup nut mixture and 2 tablespoons honey over phyllo. Repeat layers 6 times. Top with remaining phyllo sheets, brushing every other 1 with butter.
- Using a sharp knife, score surface to make 24 squares. Bake until golden brown and crisp, 25-30 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 1 hour before serving.

INGREDIENTS

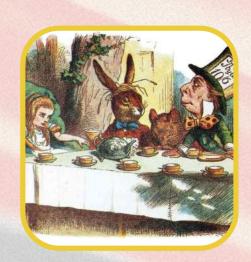
- 1 pound (4 cups) chopped walnuts
- 1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1 package (16 ounces, 14x9-inch sheets) frozen phyllo dough, thawed
- 1 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup honey



TRIVIA AVNI SINGH

1.Who wrote the novel "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"?

a) Charles Dickensb) J.K. Rowlingc) Lewis Carrolld) Mark Twain





2. Who is often referred to as the "King of Pop" and is famous for hits like "Billie Jean" and "Thriller"?

a) Princeb) Michael Jacksonc) Elvis Presleyd) David Bowie

3. Which famous painting by Leonardo da Vinci features a woman with an enigmatic smile and is currently displayed in the Louvre Museum in Paris?

a) The Starry Nightb) The Birth of Venusc) The Screamd) Mona Lisa



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ABYSSAL DESCENT

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